

The love of a friend and brother (Quality: Very good)

Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.

Date: 19 February 2010

Preacher: Roe, Norman (1939 - 2021)

[0 : 00] Lord may help me that I should attention to the book of Proverbs chapter 17 and verse 17. Proverbs chapter 17 and verse 17.

A friend loveth at all times and a brother is born for adversity. What very practical and also spiritual instruction is given us in this book of Proverbs.

Yes the writings of Solomon under the gracious inspiration of the Holy Spirit. And these Proverbs have been full as I say of instruction for the living family of God down the generations.

But amongst these very things that are expressed and set forth in this book of Proverbs. There is that also which surely as in this verse that I have brought before you this evening.

That not only is instructive for us regard to our relationships in life. Now dealings one with another and particularly within and amongst the church of Jesus Christ.

[1 : 33] And the fellowship of the brethren with which we are joined. But also it surely directs us to that one alone of whom it can truly be said.

He is a friend that loveth at all times and a brother that is born for adversity. We are thankful for relationships we enjoy obviously in this life.

And where we find real and genuine friends. How important it is that we prize those friendships. And as the book of Proverbs also reminds us.

He that hath friends must show himself friendly. Obviously in human relationships a two way thing.

And how I know even in some of the closest relationships. We can at times be very disappointed.

[2 : 42] And yet how important also is this. And that where is of that real and genuine friendship. It is not only that real love to that person in that sense when things go reasonably well with us.

But particularly in times of difficulty, adversity or when particular problems indeed do arise. How often is sadly evidence that even in human relationships.

Particularly when we come into times of particular trouble or distress. We find how very few other friends that we really have.

That are genuine and indeed will and do that it will cleave to us. Not only in prosperity. But also in adversity.

Yes we have often many acquaintances. But we have when it comes down to it very few. We can really say a genuine friend.

[3 : 55] But oh let us not overlook this either. And what an important point it is. As it concerns the church of Jesus Christ.

A brethren. A brethren. In that brought into that fellowship of the church. And in that relationship. In that sense.

One with another. True we come from diverse backgrounds. Indeed each the people of God. Their own distinct personalities.

Within the relationship within the church. How much grace do we need. Both to bear and forbear. One with another.

But oh let us not overlook. The very words of our Lord Jesus Christ. Addressing as he does. His own immediate disciples.

[4 : 51] And not only to them. But it is the word of the Lord. To his people still. Oh for grace. Both to hear it. To receive it.

And indeed enabled. To walk in the light. Of the same. What did Jesus say to them? He says a new commandment.

I give unto you. That ye love one another. As I have loved you. That ye also. Love one another. What is particularly.

Emphasized in those words. Of our Lord Jesus Christ. Of our Lord Jesus Christ. Did not the Lord of Moses say. That we should love. One another.

Even. As we love ourselves. But oh friends. The words and command. The directions. Of our Lord Jesus Christ.

[5 : 49] Go beyond that. In the sense. Which the Lord of Moses. Required. It says. That ye love. One another. As I have loved you.

Oh. Can we begin. To fathom. The height. The depth. The length. The breadth. Of the love of Christ. Which passes knowledge. Oh.

When we are reminded. Of that love of the Lord. To his own. Is that. Which has. Which has. Which was. Which was. Both from everlasting.

And indeed. Is to everlasting. That not all. The changes. That are found. The lives. Even the Lord's people. Not all their sins.

Their follies. Their failings. Altar the reality. And genuineness. That love of the Lord. To his own. And when we consider. Also.

[6 : 48] The lengths. The Lord has gone. Ah. Well. Does John. Write. In his first epistle. Brethren. Let us love. Not in word.

And in tongue. Only. But in deed. And in truth. And is that. Not gloriously. Evidenced. In the. In the dealings. Of our Lord.

Jesus Christ. With his own. Yes. His love. Is not in word. And in tongue. Only. But oh. In deed. And in truth.

When we consider. The length. That he hath gone. To redeem. His people. From the curse. Of a broken law. Well.

As it is said. Nothing. Brought him. From above. Nothing. But. Redeeming love. We consider. Also. The very state.

[7 : 42] And condition. Of each one. That are brought. Within. Within. The very. Realization. Of the wonder. Of that love. And mercy. Of the Lord.

Towards them. Not when. Deserving. Ah. Have we ever. Been deserving. Shall we. Ever be deserving. Of the Lord's love.

And favor. No. The scripture. Informs us. That was when. We were yet. Sinners. Christ died. And that God.

Justifies. The ungodly. And what is. The daily experience. Of the living. Family of God. It is surely. Ever the sense.

- Of that. Of that need. As a sinner. But oh. That which surely. The blessed. Teaching. Of the Holy Spirit. Will and does.
- [8 : 37] Fill their heart. With joy. And peace. Is. Is. Is that. Which. The. Which. The glorious. Gospel of it. The grace. Of our God.
- And makes known. Of that. Of that. What. Of all. That the Lord. Jesus is. And all. That he has done. As a Holy Spirit.
- Witnesses. And to it. Is the needy. And the burden. And the heavy laden. The soul. That is a needy sinner. Is brought.
- To cry unto the Lord. For mercy. Yes. That there is. Forgiveness. With him. That he may be feared. That the. That his love.
- And mercy. Is. Thus manifest. Still. To ruined. Needy sinners. Even as many. As he does. Call. By his grace.
- [9 : 30] Are. Remember then. The words. Of our Lord. Jesus Christ. The very practical. Implication. Of them. As it concerns.
- The people of God. That we have. In a sense. A testimony. To it. In these words. Of our text. A friend. Loveth. At all times. And a brother.
- That is born. For adversity. But it is not. Only. Upon. The relationships. Of believers. One with another. I want to concentrate.
- This evening. Important. As that is. It does have its place. As that. Which is a fruit. And effect. Of the grace. Of God.
- That we are. The recipients of. That is. We indeed. Are the recipients. Of that grace. As our Lord. Jesus. Himself. Said. By this.
- [10 : 25] Shall all men know. That ye are my disciples. If ye have love. One to another. Oh. Should not that characterize. The believer.
- Through grace. Should it not be that. Which is abundantly evidence. Amongst the companies. Of the Lord's people. Our friends. How sound.
- And solemn it is. When strife. And contention. Arises. How active. How active. Is the enemy. Of souls. In seeking friends. And to promote.
- Such things. Even amongst. The living family. Of God. Oh. For that grace. Enabling us. To keep. A careful watch. Over our own spirit.
- And to be enabled. To walk. Not only in the light. But in the realization. Of that love. Of the Lord. Jesus Christ. How much friends.
- [11 : 23] We owe to him. How dependent. We are upon him. Remember also. What our Lord said. And it has an application. Surely.
- To us still. He says. Learn of me. When meek. And lowly. In heart. And ye shall find rest. Unto your souls.
- Oh. To be well instructed. In the realization of this. In our daily lives. And that gracious leading. And teaching.
- Of the Holy Spirit. But a friend. Loveth at all times. And a brother. Is born for adversity. And surely. These words.
- Direct us. To him. Who indeed. Is a friend. That loveth. At all times. Is there. Such a one. As our Lord.
- [12 : 18] Jesus Christ is. Is there any. That can be compared. Unto him. No. Indeed not. Ah. You know.

Is not this. A blessed reality. Of what he himself. Declares. And surely. Herein. Is one of the greatest wonders. That.

That the Lord. Jesus himself. Declares. That he is the friend. Of sinners. Ah. That he brings. Sinful men.

And women. Through the riches. Of his grace. Into the bonds. Of that relationship. With him. Indeed. What his word. Declares.

And makes known. Is that. Which has. Which is that. Which is the outworking. Of his love. To them. Even from before. The foundation.

[13 : 13] Of the world. As one of our hymn writers. Well puts it. God did love them. In his son. Long before the world began. They.

The proof. Of this receive. When in Jesus. They believe. Yes friends. Let us not overlook this. The love of Christ.

To his people. The love of Christ. To your soul. And mine. As a needy sinner. Does not begin. When we have brought. Into the first.

Apprehension. For ourselves. Personally. The wondrous reality. Of it. No. It is that. Which has its origin. From before.

The foundation. Of the world. In the. In the. In the. In the. The sovereign will. And good pleasure. Of our God. And assured.

[14 : 08] In that covenant. Ordered. In all things. And sure. And all. As it is found. And sentenced. And flows. Through. All that God.

In Christ. As both appointed. And provided. And does in his own. Appointed time. Make known. In the very. Soul's experience.

Of each sinner. That he calls. By his grace. Yes. That he. Who is the Lord. Of life. And glory. Should not only.

Have association. With sinful men. And with him. But bring them. Into the bonds. Of such a relationship. As is here. Indicated.

In the words. Of our text. Well. There is that question. Proposed. Shall God. In very deed. Dwell with men.

[15 : 04] Upon earth. Oh. When we consider. Well. That are. That are. That are. Great. And vast. Is that. As it were. The contrast. Between a holy God.

And sinful. Men and women. As we are. Ah. Can such a relationship. Sinful. Men and women. Be brought into.

Be gone to the one. And only. True God. He that dwelleth. In eternity. Whose name is holy. Who cannot. Look upon sin.

But with a. Shorts. Sore. And a just. Displeasure. Against it. Ah. Friends. Here is something. That could never. Be attained.

Unto. For sinful. Men and women. Themselves. But it is that. Which the Lord. Himself. Makes known. Unto us. In the precious truth.

[16 : 01] Of the gospel. Hear it. In the words. Of our Lord. Jesus. Himself. See how he. When he spoke. To his disciples. There in that.

Upper room. Go to John. Chapter 13. We read. At the very opening. Of that chapter. The Lord. Knowing. That.

That. That. That. The Lord. Knowing. That all things. That were spoken. Him should. Were about to be accomplished. It is said. Having. Loved his own.

Which were. In the world. He loved them. Unto the end. And we see. The very. What the Lord. What the Lord. Did. On that occasion.

As he took. As he. As he took. As he. As he. As he. Took a towel. And girded himself. And filled a bowl. With water. And began. To wash.

[16 : 55] The disciples. Feet. Oh. What an action there. Remember. Who it was. Isn't it. The disciples. Amazed at it. As Peter said.

Lord. Thou should never wash. My feet. That he. Their Lord and master. Should come. Descend. To take. That were the fall.

Not only of a servant. But in such. But to. But to. For. As such an act. As he was doing. Lord. Thou should never wash.

My feet. Says Peter. What says the Lord to him. What I do. Thou knowest not now. But thou shalt know. Hereafter. Not only referring.

As it did. To what was the meaning. Of his action. On that occasion. And the example. He set them. And ah. What an example.

[17 : 51] Is the Lord Jesus Christ. Still. To his church. And people. Oh. For grace. To be followers. Of him. As dear children.

As I mentioned. A few moments ago. To drink more deeply. Into that. One and true spirit. Of our Lord Jesus Christ. A real.

And true. A self. Sacrifice. Indeed. Wherein. Friends. Our whole concern. And desire. Is. That the Lord.

Alone. May be glorified. That what concerns. Both his. But that concerns. That which pertains. To his honour.

And to his cause. And interest. Here upon earth. Is that. Which has the priority. In our lives. Ah. Not just merely.

[18 : 46] In considering. What we. What it. What is of advantage. To ourselves. Oh. We know how much. That attitude. And spirit.

There is abroad. In the earth. And we cannot. Surely. We are honest. With ourselves. Claim. We are all together. Friends. Free from it. But oh.

For that grace. Which brings us. Truly. To prefer. For. For. Others. Before ourselves. To see. And indeed.

To know. The very spirit. An attitude. And what the psalmist. Express. When he said. I'd rather. Be a doorkeeper. In the house.

Of my God. Than to dwell. In the tents. Of wickedness. But on that occasion. When the Lord. Then. Washed. His disciples. Feet.

[19 : 41] Having. Taken his garments. And sat down. With them. He says. Know ye. What I have done. Unto you. He called me.

Master. And Lord. And ye say. Well. For so I am. If then I. Your Lord. And Master. Have washed. Your feet. Ye also.

Ought to wash. One another's feet. But the point. I was coming to. Was this. The Lord. Also. Said to them. This. Later on. There in the upper room.

He says. I have not. Called you. Servants. But I have. Called you. Friends. For the servant. Knoweth not. What is Lord. Doing. But.

But he said. But he said. All that I have. Received of my. Father. I have made. Known unto you. What a relationship. Is that. Which the Lord.

- [20 : 36] Testifies of them. Not only. For his disciples. Then. But for his. Believing people. Through his grace. Still. He not only. Calls them servants.
- Yes. Is that not. Friends. A great privilege. For us. For sinners. Saved by grace. To be brought. And made willing.
- To follow the Lord. Indeed. To serve him. In our day. And generation. Should it not. Ever be considered. The very.
- Not only. The chief concern. But the very delight. Of a child of God. To in that sense. Be employed. In the service.
- Of their Lord. And master. Whatever form. That service. May take. But friends. The Lord. Doesn't leave it there. He says. I have not.
- [21 : 31] Many called you. Servants. I have called you. Friends. Bringing them. Into the world. That closer. Realization. Of that relationship.
- And union. With himself. And our. Such a friend. Is the Lord. Jesus Christ. As he is. Reminded here. That a friend.
- Loves. At all times. Oh. There is. Friends. That no. Doubting. Of the love. Of the Lord. You know.
- How. Sadly. Often times. We surely. Have to confess. Ah. Is there not. Much. Doubting. Of that love. Of the Lord.
- In our own lives. And our. Personal experience. Particularly when. That. When. When situations. Arise. Of difficulty. Of distress.
- [22 : 25] Or any particular. Present need. Ah. How friends. Those questions. Arise. How active. Is the enemy. In seeking. To promote.
- The same. Will. Will. The Lord. Cast off forever. Will he be gracious. No more. And so on. Ah.
- Can we say. We're free. From such. Such workings. Of that. Sadly. In our own lives. Yes. Often. Friends. We sin.
- Sin. Sin. Sadly. In doubting. The love. Of the Lord. But oh. There's no doubt. In that love. Of the Lord. To his own. Oh. For that grace. Of living faith. The believing. Receiving of this. The cleaving. To him.
- [23 : 20] Even when. All seems. Dark. Around us. When friends. When matters. Press in upon us. And in that sense. Even fears increase.
- Look at it. In the case. Of Job. Ah. Set a man. More troubled. And distressed. Than Job was. And through the.
- Multiplied. Afflictions. That were upon him. Ah. You know. Job had. Had some friends. Three of them. Hearing of the calamities.
- That had come. Upon that dear man of God. They came. They thought. To comfort him. And for seven. And for seeing. The situation.
- He was in. For seven days. They never said a word. They were so astonished. At what they found. And that such a man. As indeed.
- [24 : 14] They had to acknowledge. Job was. Should be in the condition. He was. They said nothing. In one sense. Would it not have been better. For Job. In that sense.
- If they remained. As silent. But we find. That. They began. Then. To speculate. As to what. Was the cause. That Job. Was in that.
- Situation. And instead. Of helping. Their friend. They added. To the distress. Of Job. And yet. We see. The Lord's.

Overruling. Even in those things. That there. Though Job. So troubled. As he was. Yet. What is the expression. Of that dear man.

Of God. Still. Friends. Cleaving. To his God. Though he slay me. He says. Yet. When I trust. In him.

[25 : 07] Ah. That. That. As I. Mentioned. A few moments. Ago. Oh. There's no. No ground. To doubt. The love. Of Christ.

To his own. For even. In friends. Of most distressing. Situations. Is not. The Lord. Also there. Is that his eye.

Ever upon his people. Is not. Is he. Open to their cry. Ah. Are they not. Still those. Whom he had loved. Chosen.

Redeemed. And called. And shall. Friends. Anything. Arise. That can. Separate them. From that. Love of God. Which is in Christ.

Jesus. Our Lord. A friend. Loveth. At all times. There. Is no ground. Whatsoever. To doubt. The love of Christ.

[26 : 01] But oh. Friends. What abundant. Evidence. Is there. Surely. In the very. Lives. Of the Lord's people. Which bears.

Witness. And testimony. To the unchanging. Love. And faithfulness. Of our God. One thing. We can say. Self-saturday.

Sadly say. Ah. Have we not. Friends. Often failed. And do still fail. Could one of us. This evening. Claim. That.

That. Looking back. Over the way. And the years. That have passed. That there is not. That. A much. Of which. We have. Sadly. To be ashamed of.

And he was. We come. Before the Lord. In the very. Confession. Of our sinfulness. Our waywardness. Of often. Failings. And forgetfulness.

[26 : 56] Of him. Yes. We have much. In that sense. To humble us. At his feet. And all. In the daily. Realization. Of what debtors.

We are. Debtors. To the mercy. Of God. And that. Every moment. Of our lives. And again. And again. To acknowledge. If not dealt.

With us. After our sins. Nor rewarded us. According. To our iniquities. No. But how much. But as I say.

Looking back. What can we say. Though friends. We have much. To mourn over. Are we not all so much. To bear witness.

And testimony to. And that is. The goodness. And the mercy. Of our God. Has he not been better. To us. Not only.

[27 : 50] Than what we ever deserved. But even. Friends. What we could even have thought. Or expected. As well. Oh. What a friend.

Is the Lord. Has the Lord been. And is the Lord. And still will be. To the praise. Of the glory. Of his name. If there is one.

And that. And in that. This sense. There is only one. Upon whom. We can implicitly rely. And that is. Our Lord. And saviour.

Of Jesus Christ. We cannot. Friends. Nor is it right. Nor is it. Nor profitable. For us. In that sense. Implicitly. To rely.

Even upon. The most closest. Friend we have. Though we value. Friendships. In that sense. But. But. But.

- [28 : 45] Our trust. And confidence. Is not. To be in an. Armour flag. And whoever. Close that. Relationship. Thankful. We should be. For it.
- But. Oh. The trust. And confidence. The believer. Is. To be in the Lord. Our God. And saviour. And him alone. Ah.
- But notice this. He is a friend. That loveth. At all times. And ah. What encouragement. We have. So friends.
- To trust in him. So to look to him. So to expect. That he will. And does hear. Our cry. And will according. To his own.
- Sovereign will. And good pleasure. Need answer. And ever meet. The needs. Of his people. Ah. What encouragement. Do we have. Thus to look for it.
- [29 : 40] And in the believing. Expectation of it. Grounded. As our encouragement. Is. Upon the word. And promise. That he has spoken.
- The very. Realization of this. As one well puts it. He holds. All nature. In his hand. That gracious hand. On which I live.
- Does life. And time. And death. Command. And as immortal. Joys to give. Such a friend. Is the Lord Jesus. Is there such a one.
- Like him. Ah. Is there any situation. That arises. In a believer's life. Beyond. Either the ability. Of our Lord.
- Or his willingness. To address. No. Indeed not. And also. Remember this. The constancy. Of that love.
- [30 : 37] Of the Lord. The reality. Of that friendship. It knows. Not only. No. No end. It knows. Friends. No change.
- It is not. We are changeable. Ah. Ah. Sadly. We find that. And in that sense. Increasingly. But no change.
- Taketh place. In him. Ah. Yes. As a. As a. Faithful friend. The Lord. Will. And does. At that time.
- When so. Needful. And necessary. We both. Reprove. Rebuke. Chasten. His people. We are told. In the word. Faithful.
- Are the wounds. Of a friend. But the kisses. Of an enemy. Are deceitful. You know. Profitable. For the living. Family of God. As much.
- [31 : 32] A reproach. Of the Lord. As also. The encouragements. He gives us. And particularly. Those reproach. That bring us. Low at his feet. Our sins.
- Confessing. Our cells. Abhorring. That cry. Still in our hearts. Unto him. That he. Will have mercy. Upon us. For his.
- Great name. Saying. You know. The psalmist. Knew. Times like. In his own life. Of the Lord. Chastening. Hand upon him. And yet. He.
- That he. Acknowledges. Was good. For me. That I have been. Afflicted. For before. I was afflicted. I went astray. But now.
- Oh. How. He had. What. What precious. Things. That he. Had he. Had he. Had he. Learned. Even in the very. Painful. Experience. For which he was.
- [32 : 24] Brought to part. One thing. Above all. That he approved. The unchanging. Love. And faithfulness. Of his God. His. The Lord.
- Did not. Fail him. The Lord. Did not. Desert him. Indeed. The Lord. Delivered him. And delivered him. As the Lord. Has done.

His people. What. Why. From the lowest. Hell. Oh. A friend. Loveth. At all times. A brother. Is born. For adversity.

And see. Friends. That. Blessed provision. That God. In Christ. Has made. Ah. And. And that. Which comes. To us. Through all.

That the Lord. Jesus is. And hath done. Hath he. Not. Delivered his people. From the. Lowest. Hell. Ah. Could. Could any.

[33 : 18] Other. Have accomplished. That. For them. Which he. Hath brought. Out. To the praise. Of the glory. Of his great. And holy name.

You know. What. Hezekiah. Express. When. In that. When he said. In those words. For peace. He says. I had. Great.

Bitterness. But. Thou. Was. Did. Love. To my soul. Delivered it. From the pit. Of corruption. That. Thou. Has cast. All my sins.

Behind. Thy back. Oh. What. Glorious. Truth. Then. That. That. That. That. That. That. Thou. Hast. In love. To my soul. And.

Oh. That is. The very outworking. Of the reality. Of the friendship. Of our Lord. And saviour. Jesus Christ. Thou. Hast.

[34 : 12] In love. To my soul. What. Delivered it. From the pit. Of corruption. For thou hast cast. All my sins. Behind thy back.

Oh. What a fool. What a free. With salvation. As our Lord. Wrought out. For his people. Remember. That once for all.

He had put away. The sins of his people. They could never be brought. In condemnation. Against them. Thou hast cast. All my sins.

Says Ezekiah. Behind thy back. Ah. What a precious. Truth is that. To the soul. Brought. Under divine. Teaching. The great.

Mercy of God. Low at the saviour's feet. To know. Know. His healing touch. To hear. His pardoning voice.

[35 : 08] To know. The reality. Of his love. As shed abroad. In our hearts. But the Holy Spirit. Given unto us. A friend. Loveth at all times.

A brother. Is born. For adversity. Ah. And throughout. The whole life. Of a child. Of God. Here. Oh. That enduring.

Friendship. Of our Lord. Jesus Christ. Faithful. And true. Ah. What is the testimony. Of his word. It is this.

That. As he. Is that friend. That loveth. At all times. Not only. Does he say. He did. To his disciples. His application. To his people.

Still. I will not. Leave you. Comfortless. I will. Come to you. A little while. And the world. Seeth me. No more. But ye see me.

[36 : 03] Because I live. Ye shall live also. Oh. What a promise. Is that. And the blessed. Expectation. Of this. That this.

Friend. That loveth. At all times. He. Whose kindness. We have surely. Found. And proved. To the wonder. To the. To the praise.

Of the glory. Of his great. And holy name. Is that one. Whom. We are assured. Of as well. That we shall. See him.

And see him. Without. A veil. Between. Ah. But does he not. Say. That where I am. There shall also. My servant be.

Yes. All. That are brought. Into the bonds. Of that relationship. Shall not fail. Friends. To be with him. That. That. Where he is.

[36 : 59] And indeed. With him. As one. Well says. I shall. Be with him. When he comes. Triumphant. Down. The parting skies. And when his voice.

Breaks up the tomb. I shall. Among. His children rise. Glorious expectation. But sure it is. To each and every.

Sinner. That through grace. Is brought. Into that relationship. Not only. To know of him. But about him. But to know him. This friend.

That loveth. At all times. This brother. Is born. For adversity. We'll leave the remarks. There may the Lord. And his blessing. Amen. Amen. Thank you.